
NEWS RELEASE

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SENATORS GREGG AND SUNUNU ANNOUNCE \$7.6 MILLION FOR PROJECTS AT PEASE AND THE NAVAL SHIPYARD ON VERGE OF FINAL CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senators Judd Gregg (R-NH) and John Sununu (R-NH) today announced that the Fiscal Year 2004 Military Construction Appropriations Conference Report, slated for Senate approval by Thursday, includes \$7.6 million for two Granite State projects: \$6.1 million for a new fire, crash and rescue station on the Pease Air National Guard Base in Newington and \$1.5 million for the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard's Structural Shop Consolidation Project. When the bill passes the Senate, its final Congressional hurdle, it will head to the White House for the President's signature.

As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator Gregg was able to include the funding in the bill. Senator Gregg stated, "Pease Air Force Base needs a modern rescue facility to give the men and women of the Air National Guard the critical safety resources they need. The contribution they make on a daily basis to our national security is invaluable, and this new rescue station will increase the ability of fire and rescue personnel to respond to situations at Pease. The Shipyard's consolidation project will make an already efficient operation even better. The Shipyard has set multiple records for on-time, on-budget submarine work. The funding in this measure for the Shipyard will help reduce costs even further and minimize turn-around time for important components of our Navy."

"In New Hampshire, New England, and across the country, military facility personnel are working hard to help keep America's armed forces strong, and the men and women at Pease Air National Guard base are among the best at their job," said Senator Sununu. "It is critical that they have the necessary resources to continue their support operation at Pease. That is why I so strongly support the Fiscal Year 2004 MILCON Appropriations Conference report, which includes \$6.1 million for fire station improvements there. Additionally, the \$1.5 million in design funding for the Structural Shop Consolidation project at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard will help to provide a modern, consolidated facility to store submarine components (including nuclear components) for the entire submarine fleet."

The rescue station is a 22,000 square foot facility that will provide protection in support of the civil airfield operations at the Pease International Tradeport, aircraft assigned to the New Hampshire Air National Guard and the Air Mobility Command's Northeast Tanker Task Force mission. The Shipyard's appropriation will fund a design study to modernize and relocate the Shipfitters Shop, making work currently done under practices dating back to World War II more efficient. This study is the initial step in a larger project to increase production efficiency and reduce building maintenance and utility costs.

The Military Construction Conference Report includes \$5.16 billion for military construction projects, such as barracks construction, military family housing and medical centers. It also provides community impact assistance and aids members of the military who face loss on the sale of private residences as a result of installation realignments and closures.

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